banks for grant/renewal of licence.

Eradication of Kala Azar in Bihar and West Bengal

3273. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Kala Azar is still a major health hazard and killer disease in Bihar and West Bengal;

(b) if so, what was the impact of this disease in these two States during the last three years, Year-wise, State-wise; and

(c) steps Government have taken or propose to take for the eradication of Kala Azar in Bihar and West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HELATH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) The Government is aware of the Kala Azar situtation in Bihar and West Bengal.

(b) The incidence of Kala Azar during the last 3 years in Bihar and West Bengal as reported by the State Governments are as under:—

	1994		1995		1996 (Provisional)	
State	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Bihar	24391	379	21045	259	24665	666
West Bengal	1149	3	1552	18 vc 1520	11	

(c) A Centrally Sponsore Kala azar Control Programme on a cost sharing basis between the Centre and the States is in operation in Bihar and West Bengal.

Strategies under the Programme include:—

—Interruption of transquission through Vector Control by Undertaking residual spraying in the affected areas

—Early diagnosis and complete treatment through Primary Health Care System;

—Health Education and Community participation.

Low Priority of Burns Ward in Government Hospital

3274. PROF. RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Low priority to Burns ward' in the Hindustran Times dated 8th November, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons for giving low priority to Burns Ward in Government Hospitals; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the prevalent situation in the Burns Ward of various Government Hospitals particularly RML and Safdarjung Hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In Central Government hospitals namely, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and Safdarjang Hospital, the Burns ward is not given low priority. The Government has in fact given taken several steps for upgrading the Burns Ward of Safdarjang Hospital such as sanctioning procurement of essential equipments; creation of posts of various categories; and sanctioning of various civil/elestrical works; renovation